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DEPT FOR IO/T (NEVILLE)

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TAGS: [ELAB](#) [PREL](#) [KCRM](#) [UN](#) [AU](#) [BO](#)

SUBJECT: BELARUS TIP STRATEGY PROPOSAL DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 142590

(SBU) On October 18, Pol/Econ Chief and Poloff delivered reftel points to Andrey Taranda, Head of the MFA Human Rights Division, and Denis Zdorov, Human Rights Division Counselor. Taranda called the U.S. decision not to support Belarus' multi-lateral proposal a "pity," adding that the current U.N. Protocol has proven insufficient to curb human trafficking. Moreover, he predicted that international partners would perceive U.S. opposition to the GOB proposal as "strange." Noting that the Belarusian non-paper was a preliminary plan, Taranda asked whether U.S. opposition was final or subject to change upon negotiated amendments. Pol/Econ Chief replied that U.S. objections to the essential elements of the GOB proposal were firm but encouraged Belarus' continued efforts to address trafficking issues.

Stewart